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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) All short-term loans are ordinarily repayable within a period of five years."

Reorganization of Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar into multi-purpose societies.

* 278 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar for their conversion into multi-purpose societies ; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. Several Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar have requested that they might be reorganized into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability.

" (b) The Government examined the request in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and found that it was not possible to comply with it."

* 279 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar requesting that they may be changed into multi-purpose co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer furnished to Madras Legislative Assembly starred question No. 278 by Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan, M.L.A., on the same subject."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, there are 107 Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar. They have a very large amount of share-capital and a large amount of accumulated reserves. If they are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies, they can function usefully now that rationing and procurement have been abolished. Therefore, will the Government reconsider their position and see that these societies are allowed to function as multi-purpose societies with limited liability and not unlimited liability."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have examined this question in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and they see that under section 4 of the Madras Co-operative Societies Act, it is not feasible to convert them into multi-purpose societies on the basis of limited liability. However, Government have accepted another recommendation of the Registrar that the

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exact type of societies into which the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies should be converted should be decided with reference to the conditions now prevailing and steps are being taken to see that as far as possible, no society is compelled to go into liquidation.''

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' Are Government aware of the fact that a considerable amount is being spent to keep the societies going intact, though they have no function to discharge in the present circumstances and in view of this, will Government be pleased to hasten the procedure so that they may be converted soon into some suitable societies? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' The Government are looking into this question also.''

Dr. K. B. MENON :—'' Are Government aware that the delay on the part of the Government in taking a decided attitude towards these societies is causing considerable financial and other losses to these societies and therefore, will Government hasten to take some decided steps with regard to these societies? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I may tell the hon. Member that there is no avoidable delay on the part of the Government.''

11-50 a.m. Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Inasmuch as the rule referred to by the Hon. the Minister does not prevent the formation of such societies but only says ' unless the Government otherwise direct ', may I know why the Government feel that direction otherwise is not necessary in this case? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question to the Hon. the Minister in charge of co-operation.''

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—'' The answer given by the Hon. the Minister suggests that section 4 of the Co-operative Societies Act is standing in the way of registering these societies as multi-purpose societies with limited liability. Will the Government see that the Act is amended so as to suit this purpose? ''

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' The Government will examine that aspect of the question also.''

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—'' The Producer-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies are large in number and are a mighty organization so painfully built up in Malabar that the people of Malabar and the people of Madras should be proud of these. Now that rationing is gone, these societies are languishing and may soon perish. It is absolutely necessary that they should be kept alive. May I request the Hon. the Minister immediately to convene a conference of all interests—M.L.As., M.Ps., representatives of Government, representatives of the societies and others—to consider and decide how the future of the societies should be fashioned and patterned? ''

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall convey the suggestion to my hon. Colleague in charge of Co-operation."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it a fact that the delay in the reorganization of societies is due to the fact that they are under the management of the Civil Supplies Department and that the Government do not give the amount due to them, which is a considerable amount and therefore the present position continues? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Retrenchment of staff due to abolition of food control.

* 280 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many employees have been retrenched in the Madras Secretariat and also in the mufassal on account of the abolition of food control and the Civil Supplies Department;

(*b*) the approximate period of service put in by them;

(*c*) whether the Government have any scheme to absorb the retrenched personnel; and

(*d*) how many have so far been re-employed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Civil Supplies Department has not been totally abolished as presumed by the Member. Up to the end of September 1954, 114 employees were reverted to their parent departments and 215 persons were discharged from service from the Civil Supplies Department following the decontrol of rice. There has been no retrenchment in the Agriculture Department of the Secretariat.

" (*b*) From one month to nine years.

" (*c*) The question of absorbing the temporary employees of the Civil Supplies Department following the abolition of that Department, was considered by the Government as early as 1952 and for that purpose two competitive examinations were conducted by the Madras Public Service Commission in February and June 1952. Such of the candidates who came out successful in the examinations were allotted to regular Departments without prejudice to their continuance in the Civil Supplies Department so that they might revert to those Departments when their services were no longer required in the Civil Supplies Department. There is no other scheme before the Government at present.

" (*d*) Out of those discharged from service up to the 30th September 1954, 64 employees have so far been re-employed. The rest of the retrenched persons have been asked to register their names with the Employment Exchange."